IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-6, 8, 25, 28-32 and 34.

1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for sharing a shared resource between a resource server that controls the shared resource and a client, the method comprising the steps of:

    (A) establishing a layer two tunneling protocol (L2TP) tunnel between the resource server and the client;

    (B) establishing an outgoing connection from the client through the shared resource via the L2TP tunnel using a plurality of messages defined by a predefined L2TP protocol for the L2TP tunnel; and

    (C) establishing an incoming connection through the shared resource to the client via the L2TP tunnel using a plurality of messages defined by user-defined extensions to the L2TP protocol for the L2TP tunnel, wherein the plurality of messages defined by the user-defined extensions to the L2TP protocol comprise an accept incoming call request (AICRQ) message and an accept incoming call reply (AICRP) message.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the client resides in a second logical partition that is separate from a first logical partition that includes the shared resource.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the client comprises a computer system coupled to the resource server via a network connection.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the shared resource comprises a modem.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the shared resource comprises a virtual private network (VPN).

18. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the incoming and outgoing connections are point-to-point connections.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for sharing a modem between a modem server in a first logical partition that controls the modem and a client in a second logical partition, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a layer two tunneling protocol (L2TP) tunnel between the modem server and the client by running an L2TP profile on the client and by performing handshaking to establish the L2TP tunnel;

the client sending an accept incoming call request (AICRQ) message that is a user-defined extension to an L2TP protocol for the L2TP tunnel;

if the modem is available, the modem server responding to the AICRQ message with an accept incoming call reply (AICRP) message that is a user-defined extension to the L2TP protocol for the L2TP tunnel;

the modem server putting the modem in answer mode;

the modem answering a call and establishing a connection;

the modem server sending an incoming call request (ICRQ) message that is defined in the L2TP protocol to the client to indicate a call has been received;

the client sending an incoming call reply (ICRP) message that is defined in the L2TP protocol to the modem server to acknowledge the incoming call;

the modem server sending an incoming call connect (ICCN) message to the client to connect the call; and

starting virtual point-to-point end-to-end communication between the client and the modem.

21-40 (Cancelled)